

## Suggested Guidelines for Peer Observation

1. Be mindful of the possibility that the interpreter's performance may be affected merely because he is being observed by a colleague.
2. Sometimes, we might know the answer or a better answer than what we stated in our rendition but we simply were unable to recall it at the exact moment it was needed. Before you make a suggestion, repeat what your colleague said, and see if she could correct or improve it without your input.
3. Do not engage in "absolutist" corrections. Preface your pointers with any of the following:
  - "In my experience,..."
  - "I've always heard..."
  - "Where I'm from, we say..."
  - "I find that \_\_\_\_\_ works well"
  - "A working equivalent that has often gotten me out of a jam is..."
  - "I have heard other interpreters say..." or "Some of us have used..."
  - "For me, this word means..."
  - "As far as I know,..."
  - "My sources might be wrong/out of date/limited, but..."

4. In addition to offering potential corrections, it may be helpful to provide alternatives that may be more succinct than the original interpretation.
  
5. Be aware of prescriptive and descriptive approaches to interpreting; although the term may appear in a reliable glossary, it may not have greater validity than an interpretation that is easier to understand.
  
6. Provide source information for your own corrections or alternatives when possible.
  
7. Be courteous and respectful of your peer. Don't rush to judgment about his/her abilities. An interpreter may have slept poorly or may be concerned about one of her children. Some seasoned interpreters may be in a stage of their careers where they simply may not be as interested in learning something new or receiving advice from someone who is less experienced/younger/less educated than they are or is a "non-native".
  
8. When observing a peer, be aware of your own demeanor. Do not "make faces" in response to any of your colleague's renditions. These reactions might distract the interpreter and affect his performance.